

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

sub B1 1. An apparatus for directing audio signals between audio transducers and a system, comprising:

20 a plurality of ports for communicating audio signals with a plurality of audio transducers, at least one of the audio transducers having off hook capability; a transducer switch, coupled to the plurality of ports, that receives a configuration for the plurality of audio transducers and that, in response to detecting an off hook condition of at least one of the audio transducers having off hook capability, switches audio signals from one of the audio transducers to the off hook audio transducer for which the off hook condition was detected.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said transducer switch includes: a controller that receives said configuration; and a switch, coupled to the plurality of ports and to said controller; and wherein said switch switches responsive to receiving a signal from said controller to indicate detection of said off hook condition.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the switch receives a signal from the controller when the off hook audio transducer goes on hook and switches audio signals back from the on hook audio transducer to the another audio transducer.

sub B1 4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the switch includes a first switch for selecting one of the audio transducers that does not have off hook capability and a second switch for selecting between the audio transducer selected by the first switch and an audio transducer that has off hook capability.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the controller receives the configuration for the plurality of audio transducers from a computer system.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the off hook audio transducer is a normal telephone or conference telephone.

5 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of audio transducers are near field microphones, far field microphones, headsets, handsets, auxiliary inputs/outputs, speakers, amplifiers, normal telephone, or conference telephone.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
audio circuitry that communicates audio signals between the transducer switch and the system, said system comprising a computer system.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said at least one of the audio transducers is a telephony device.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said apparatus comprises a sound card internal to said computer system.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the sound card is external to the computer system.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is for use with a computer telephony client.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein apparatus is for use with a voice recognition system, messaging system, or audio server.

14. A method of managing audio transducers, comprising:
receiving a configuration for a plurality of audio transducers, said configuration specifying that audio signals are to be sent to a first audio transducer and received from a second audio transducer;
5 detecting that a third audio transducer has been turned on;
sub a2) changing the configuration such that audio signals are received from the third audio transducer instead of the second audio transducer.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising changing the configuration such that audio signals are sent to the third audio transducer instead of the first audio transducer.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
detecting that the third audio transducer has been turned off; and
restoring the configuration such that audio signals are received from the second audio transducer instead of the third audio transducer.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising setting the configuration in an audio device between the plurality of audio transducers and a computer system, wherein said configuration is received from the computer system.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the configuration is input by a user utilizing
20 a graphical user interface (GUI).

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
allowing a user to select one of an input or output audio transducer; and

automatically selecting a default corresponding input or output audio transducer according to the user's selection.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the third audio transducer is a telephony device and is turned on by going off hook.

5 21. The method of claim 14, further comprising setting the configuration in an audio device coupled to the plurality of audio transducers, said audio device being a sound card.

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